The Southern PATRIOT

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Medical Advisory Group To Assist SCEF Fight on Bias

Racial discrimination in medical care is, without question, one of the cruelest of Jim Crow's burdens. Its tragedies—as described in the recent SCEF pamphlet "The Untouchables"—cannot be laid to the general shortage of health facilities. They are clearly the result of segregation, either tacit or legalized.

The medical profession has been slow to recognize its obligation to dramatize and to remedy, as far as it can, this intolerable social condition. But progress is being made.

One organization that has done much for democracy is the American Nurses Association. This national group has been integrated for several years now. Recently, Mrs. Elizabeth Killeffer, president of the affiliated Tennessee State Nurses Association, made this statement in her address to the membership:

"Discrimination against any member or minority group violates the best that is in all of us. Because TSNA has members who are Negroes it is every member's obligation to do all that can be done to prevent discrimination and unfair treatment to them because of their race. They are a valued part of our organization with much to contribute to nursing. It is true that we cannot wipe out all prejudice and change the pattern of behavior of all citizens overnight. We can, however, try to plan for the future so that this group may participate fully and comfortably in all meetings and activities of TSNA."

And last month a junior nursing student at Meharry, Mrs. Vanzola Clark, was elected "Miss Student Nurse" of Nashville in competition with five white students.

Medical societies in most Southern States remain exclusive. But a poll of Southern doctors conducted by the SCEF (reported in the October and November issues of the **Patriot** and reprinted in the February issue of the Bulletin of the Physicians Forum) indicated a strong sentiment for admission of Negro physicians. This sentiment found expression in Charleston, S. C., where the local medical society admitted five last December, and in Pulaski County, Ark., where four were accepted in March. Mt. Sinai Hospital, a private institution in Miami, several months ago gave staff privileges to a Negro doctor. Last month it added two more.

Better treatment for ALL patients is portended by these hopeful developments. But much, much remains to be done. We are convinced that what must be done, can be done—and soon. Therefore, it is with great pleasure that we announce the formation of a Medical Advisory Committee to the SCEF. Its members have consented to guide and evaluate our efforts to end segregation and discrimination in medical care. As representatives of all sections of the South who are deeply concerned with social problems, they will be of invaluable assistance. They are:

E. S. CALDEMEYER, M.D., Washington, D. C.

H. HORNE HUGGINS, M.D., Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

EMMETT MCLOUGHLIN, Superintendent, Memorial Hospital, Phoenix, Ariz.

C. HERBERT MARSHALL II, M. D., Washington, D.C.

GERTRUDE NIELSON, M.D., Norman, Oklahoma.

WILLIAM OBRINSKY, M.D., Assistant

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EMMETT McLOUGHLIN
Led the fight in Arizona

Bold Edict Opens Arizona's Schools

The State Superior Court of Arizona has outlawed racial segregation in the public schools of Phoenix in a decision which may well become classic. Its fierce and moving defense of the democratic ideal will certainly challenge the consciences of other jurists. Should the present cases before the U.S. Supreme Court fail to crush the "separate but equal" myth, the Arizona ruling will provide impetus for renewed assaults.

To quote Judge Fred C. Struckmeyer, Jr., in his February 9 verdict:

"The Supreme Court of the United States in Gong Lum vs. Rice . . . (Chinese girl brought suit against the state of Mississippi when she was forced to attend a Negro school) . . . settled the question as to whether segregation by a state, acting through its legislature, is in itself lawful. It was then decided that segregation of groups of pupils does not violate the federal Constitution if equal facilities are provided.

"Nonetheless democracy rejects any

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It's A Rough Road, But Let's Hold On!

This is the story told by a passenger of an Oklahoma City bus:

"An old blind man got on at 10th and Broadway, being led by a little boy who apparently knew nothing about Jim Crow laws, for when he got to the middle of the bus, he told the man, who looked like he was past 70, to sit down. A white man around 50 was seated on the inner seat and made no complaint.

"But the bus driver, who was watching what was going on, stopped after he had gone a few blocks and ordered the blind man to move. All of the seats were taken in the rear, and when the

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Arizona Judge Sets Stirring Precedent

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theory of second-class citizenship. There are no second-class citizens in Arizona. And the trend from the time of the enunciation in the Declaration of Independence of the principle 'that all men are created equal' has been to constantly reconsider the status of minority groups and their problems."

Judge Struckmeyer cited how the Arizona legislature had, in successive laws, modified its stand on segregation. Its latest act was to state simply that "they (Boards of Trustees) may segregate groups of pupils."

This law, said the judge, was an understandable attempt to ameliorate the economic impact of the abandonment of segreation on investments in school accommodations necessitated by segregation.

But, he ruled, "the effect of this statute is, of course, to transfer the responsibility of the transition to the local school authorities. Such delegation is clearly unconstitutional. . . .

"It is fundamental to our system of government that the rights of men are to be determined by laws and not by administrative officers or bureaus, nor can this principle be surrendered for convenience or nullified for the sake of expediency. . .

"If the legislature can confer upon the school board the arbitrary power to segregate pupils of African ancestry from pupils of Caucasian ancestry, then the same right must exist to segregate pupils of French, German, Chinese, Spanish, or other ancestry; and if such unlimited and unrestricted power can be exercised on the basis of ancestry, it can be exercised on such a purely whimsical basis as the color of hair, eyes, or for any reason as pure fancy might dictate."

This devastation of the Arizona legislature's attempt to delegate the right to segregate may rattle the windows of state capitals as far east as South Carolina. For what is Governor Byrnes' elaborate scheme to create a "private-public" school system but a plot to do just the same thing?

Should the Supreme Court's ruling set South Carolina's desperate plan in motion, a telling legal precedent will exist to thwart it. For Struckmeyer's decision is being appealed to the state supreme court, not to challenge it, but to gain for it broader application.

The Arizona ruling is a fitting triumph for such progressive leaders in that state as Dr. Fred Holmes and Emmett McLoughlin. Dr. Holmes, a chest specialist, is organizer of the Arizona Council for Civil Unity, and head of the medical staff of the Memorial Hospital. Mr. McLoughlin is superintendent and founder of the state's only interracial hospital and helped promote unsegregated housing. He is a member of the SCEF Medical Advisory Committee.

No One Goes Slower than Rail Czars

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little fellow helped the old gentleman to his feet, he could not decide what to do. A young colored man got up then and led the old blind man to his seat.

"After he got off I sat there and thought of the inhumanity of a bus driver who would drive a blind man out of his seat solely because he was seated by a white man, who made absolutely no complaint."

There are bus drivers like that all over. But, more importantly, there are also transportation-line officials who insist that their employees be like that. They, like the transit official in Louisville, are "not interested in morals but in running a bus line." They will not paint out a single Jim Crow sign unless the law makes them. Out of deference to what they conceive as public opinion they will even hang up some of the old outlawed signs—unless those discriminated against assert their rights.

Hence, as if there had never been a Henderson Case, the Southern Railway attempts to segregate its dining-car passengers and a recent Southbound Passenger saw Jim Crow cars being added and filled at Washington.

The L & N Railroad's crack Humingbird, which links Cincinnati and New Orleans, is Jim Crow on its northward run. At Birmingham, the limousines which transfer passengers from one terminal to another force whites to ride in front with the driver out of deference to a city ordinance—although they are clearly dealing in interstate commerce.

The NAACP has made a survey of state laws that still harrass travel. They include:

The right, in Alabama and Florida, of bus and railway employees to call on passengers for help in ejecting Negroes.

The right, in South Carolina and Virginia, of conductors or railway agents to chase down and take to jail Negro

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VANDERBILT LETS 2 NEGROES IN; SEWANEE STEWS

The Vanderbilt School of Religion accepted two Negro students last month. The action followed the Tennessee University's decision in October to drop color barriers in that graduate division.

And thus another institution in the same state, The University of the South, Sewanee, is made to look the more foolish. Because of that Episcopalian school's refusal to accept Negro divinity students, seven of eight members of the theological department resigned, and Rev. James A. Pike, dean of the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, New York City, refused an honorary degree.

Mr. Arthur Ben Chitty, writing in the **Sewanee Alumni News**, made an interesting summary of the situation. He points out that while there are 10 Episcopalian seminaries that admit Negroes, only about five Negroes enter training each year in the entire U. S.

"If Sewanee is a part of the Episcopal Church," he writes, "and if the Episcopal Church provides for the training of more colored postulants than it can get, then must Sewanee add its own to other unused facilities . . . ?

"The resigning faculty members say 'Yes!' Even if no seminary facilities are needed, even if no colored persons have applied or will apply, it is imperative that the university say it will admit students regardless of race."

Vanderbilt also put another university on the spot: Emory, in Georgia. At one time Vanderbilt was the Methodist University of the South. Subsequently, it became non-sectarian and that distinction passed on to Emory. But which of the two now manifests the greater Christian spirit of brotherhood?

TRENDS

Two bills aimed at ending segregation in all levels of public education have been introduced in the Missouri legislature. One, opening the doors of state-supported colleges and universities, passed the House on March 18. Friends of the SCEF in Missouri still have time to write their State Senators giving their views on this important bill.

The second bill, integrating grammar and high schools, had not come to a vote at press time.

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An FEPC bill has been introduced in the Delaware Legislature.

Youth Conference delegates thresh out a point. Copies of the February and March issues of the Patriot, giving full coverage of the historic event, are still available.

Letters: The Patriot Is A Pain, But Good

To The Editor:

I have a two-year file of **The Nation** which is doing nobody any good. Can you suggest a Negro or interracial college to which the magazines might usefully be sent?

A Southern editor to whom racial equality is the "foster child of silence and slow time" remarked to me some months ago that **The Southern Patriot** does more harm than good. He would have told the truth had he said that it causes more pain than pleasure. So does a doctor when he lances a boil.

IRVING ERANT
3333 M St. SE
Washington 19, D. C.

* * *

To The Editor:

I was in Texas and Georgia during the first World War and made a trip through the southeast about four years ago. I say that this country's greatest resources are the undeveloped capabilities of its colored citizens. I am enclosing a check for $5 to have a little share in the good work you are doing.

It seems to me that big league baseball alone has done more to give the Negro a place in the sun than all the churches put together with their hypocritical attitudes.

PAT WOERPEL
Dodgeville, Wis.

* * *

To The Editor:

I am glad to help out in a small way. Your work is very near my heart and is included in my prayers.

It seems too bad that an organization dedicated to doing Christly service should not make some reference to the need of prayers for its success. It is comparatively easy to give money; when you agree to pray for something your heart goes into it. Why not ask people for their supporting prayers?

LENORA C. CLARK
Berkeley, Cal.

* * *

To The Editor:

The youth conference was wonderful for several reasons: (1) It afforded an opportunity for me to be with some other people who feel as I do that segregation is basically wrong and that there is something we can do to abolish it. (2) It gave me an opportunity to put over the case against segregation to a good friend of mine who before had thought I was a little "odd" in my views. (3) It cut across not only racial lines, but also denominational lines. (4) It gave me some definite and concrete suggestions for action that I might take to help change some attitudes and actions in my school and church and community. (5) It introduced me to Katie Glover, a student at Stillman College, a Presbyterian Negro school here in Tuscaloosa, who is now a good friend of mine, and (6) the conference was an intelligent voice speaking out for Brotherhood and democracy, not only through the newspaper publicity it received, but also by the very well written resolution that was prepared and sent to key leaders in our country.

MOLLY O'STEEN
University of Alabama
Tuscaloosa, Ala.

Medical Advisory Committee

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professor, L.S.U. Medical School, New Orleans, Louisiana.

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Note:

Copies of The Untouchables (50 cents each) and free reprints of the **Physicians Forum** article are available upon writing the SCEF, 822 Perdido St., New Orleans, La.

Travel

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passengers who have been ejected from trains.

Police powers, in nine Southern states, for conductors and drivers.

A bill introduced by Senator Humphrey of Minnesota (S. 465) would nullify these statutes' effect on interstate travel. It is under study by the I.C.C.

But side by side with laws and court decisions must go the use of the rights that they grant. It means jail and even a physical beating in some instances; but in most, white and Negro join readily in the fellowship of travel. It requires militance to break the ice—militance of the sort displayed by W. C. Chance, a retired school principal of Parmalee, N. C. In 1948, Mr. Chance suffered ejection and arrest because of his refusal to sit in a Jim Crow coach on the Atlantic Coast Line. He brought suit and eventually gained a federal court edict banning segregation on the line. His perseverance richly merits him the Carolina Times, award, presented last month, of "Negro Leader of North Carolina for 1952."

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Susan O'Steen of Tuscaloosa, Ala., was the author of a bill last month in the Fifth Alabama YMCA Youth Legislature to admit Negroes to all graduate and professional schools of the state.

The bill was passed by the House, 45 to 43, and was defeated in the Senate, 29 to 6.